

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone: 601-965-4575  
Facsimile: 601-965-5622  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ms/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/)  
[nass-ms@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ms@nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending April 13, 2003

Released: 3:00 P.M., April 14, 2003

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending April 13, 2003**. The corn crop progress has jumped ahead of historical averages, but early week precipitation halted fieldwork for most of the week. Soil moisture was rated 55 percent adequate and 45 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	84	70	58	65	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	56	23	37	44	--	--	--	--	--
Rice	Planted	11	6	3	14	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	2	--	0	3	--	--	--	--	--
Sorghum	Planted	7	1	3	12	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	1	--	NA	NA	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Planted	15	9	0	9	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	6	2	0	3	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	90	75	75	85	1	7	40	48	4
	Heading	5	3	15	35	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	20	NA	NA	NA	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	56	51	53	41	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						2	8	24	54	12
Pasture						2	14	32	44	8

### County Agent Comments

"Corn planting and preparing fields to plant soybeans are the major farm activities in the county. With a few more days of good weather, a lot could be accomplished."

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

"Rain Monday morning was anywhere from 3 - 6 inches and stopped everything. Soybeans planted Saturday before the rain, are sprouting and are showing no signs of rot yet."

— Stephen Winters, Grenada

"Rains a week ago have halted all fieldwork. Cool temperatures have affected corn but will probably not be damaging to the crops. Some early soybeans have been planted but have not emerged."

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

"Heavy rain and hail again this week put an end to fieldwork in Madison County. All soils at this time are 100% surplus. We desperately need dry weather so that we can catch up on corn and cotton plantings. Pasture conditions are looking great."

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“In Webster County we had as much as 5 inches of rain. We may have had a loss in newly planted corn that was washed away by the excessive rain.”

— Lisa Stewart, Webster

“Some field drying occurred during the week, allowing producers to resume field preparation and planting. Producers are working to get the corn crop planted and level soybean fields that were rutted last fall. Pasture growth is excellent for fescue and ryegrass. The colder temperatures slowed warm season forages from making much progress in greening up. Livestock are gaining weight on lush spring growth. Pears, apples, peaches and plums have already bloomed and are setting fruit. Pecans are beginning to bud.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Growers should get more crops planted this week as fields dry. The warm weather will help all crops come up.”

— Don Respess, Bolivar

“Producers are ready to get some more seed in the ground. If we get 5-7 days without rain, the corn planting will be completed. Rice and soybean producers will get started April 12th and if they get a 5 day window, they will plant a lot of acres.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Rains early in the week prevented fieldwork most of the week. Corn has mostly emerged but is being held back by the cold temperatures. There was a light frost Friday morning.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“With a little dry weather in the forecast, our farmers should be able to begin their corn planting this week. There is still some fieldwork to be done to eliminate ruts in the ground from last year's harvest.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Wet soils continue to keep producers from doing any fieldwork. Some field action should begin in the next few days. Pastures and wheat fields are improving. Hay is still being fed by a few producers.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“The ground is still saturated from heavy rains over the previous weekend.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Last weekend's heavy rains have halted almost all field work. Corn left to be planted will take another week or two to get planted. Emerged corn looks very good except in very low field areas that may have been flooded. The plus side of all this is that we will almost certainly go into summer with a full charge of water in the soil profile.”

— Ernest H. Flint, Attala

“Rainfall totals were around 10 inches or more. There was some hail damage on existing crops. There was also some loss of poultry due to floods and extensive damage to poultry houses.”

— Anita Webb, Scott

“Rains put a halt to producers putting up haylage and baleage. With some dry weather this week, corn planting should be completed. The wheat is looking good, if we do not get a storm that knocks it down. Cattle producers will begin fly control measures as the warmer weather has brought out the flies.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Fieldwork was halted due to the recent heavy rainfall. Producers were able to put out fertilizer applications on pastures toward the end of the week.”

— Shelby Bearden, Copiah

“Last week most of the emphasis was placed on clean-up due to extreme damage caused by a tornado. Some field activities resumed the latter part of the week. The sudden drop in temperatures had some truck croppers worried.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Several producers cut cool season forages the end of last week. Corn planting continued after last week’s rain. Corn producers will be planting about 50% more Roundup Ready. Cattle are in good condition. I’m starting to receive several calls on warm season weed control.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Most of the county received approximately 1.5 to 2.0 inches of rain last Sunday and Monday, delaying corn planting and ryegrass hay/bale silage harvest. Light frosts damaged early-planted watermelons, tomatoes, and some fruit trees. Emerged corn is stunted and yellow, but will survive. Hay harvest operations resumed in full fury Thursday morning and continue today. Soil moisture conditions should allow corn planting to resume today. All county beef and dairy producers are gathering up records, counting cattle, and rushing to the Farm Service Agency office to sign up for the Livestock Compensation Program.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“We received 3.5 inches of rain this week, just as soils had dried out to allow field work. Some corn may be lost to wet areas that have standing water. Some corn will have to be replanted. Ryegrass is really taking off, finally! Hay supplies will be adequate, and we’ll really need to put more up this summer. There is a real pessimism about agriculture at this time from producers. Low prices and bad weather are putting a damper on things.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Rains earlier this week have hampered spring planting once again.”

— Walter Walker, Jackson

“The rain early in the week and cool weather have put a stop to all fieldwork. Pastures should respond to warmer temperatures, longer days and sunshine. Silage corn is emerging and looks like a good stand.”

— Chuck Grantham, Jones

“Thunderstorms slowed down and stopped most planting and ground preparations. Temperatures dipped into the low thirties for one day, damaging all tender vegetation.”

— Billy Joe Lee, Pearl River

“Weather conditions have prevented field activities and planting. Excess rain has caused some pastures and fields to have standing water. Temperature extremes have slowed germination of corn and watermelon. In cases where crops were planted in low lying areas, standing water will result in these crops being replanted.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

---

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

**This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872, and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Cooperative  
Extension Service  
Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

**Southern Regional Climate Center  
Louisiana State University  
Elizabeth Mons  
Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Mississippi Agricultural  
Statistics Service  
Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician**

Weather Summary from April 7, 2003 to April 13, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				60		1.38	-0.02	1	3.01				
Cleveland	82	38	56	60	-4	2.03	+0.77	1	4.13				
Tunica	81	39	54	60	-6	0.60	-0.77	1	2.79	72	46	56	0.44
Extreme/Average	82	38	55	62	-7	1.34	+0.10	1	3.31	72	46	56	0.44
2. North-Central													
Batesville	72	36	54	59	-5	1.65	+0.43	1	2.84				
Calhoun City	73	36	53	60	-7	4.15	+2.82	2	6.34				
Independence	71	34	51	59	-8	1.00	-0.12	1	3.55				
Oxford				58		1.40	+0.21	1	4.12				
Extreme/Average	73	34	52	60	-8	2.27	+1.01	1	4.24				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	75	39	54	58	-4	1.77	+0.57	2	5.78				
Corinth City				61		1.81	+0.61	2	5.74				
Iuka				56		1.60	+0.40	2	5.33				
Ripley				58		1.89	+0.57	2	4.91				
Tupelo						2.59		2	5.45				
Extreme/Average	75	39	54	60	-6	2.02	+0.76	2	5.47				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				62		2.10	+0.77	1	3.63				
Rolling Fork	82	38	57	62	-5	3.07	+1.74	1	4.40	80	53	66	
Stoneville	83	38	57	62	-5	2.32	+1.06	2	3.99	75	49	61	0.17
Yazoo City	79	38	56	63	-7	5.00	+3.58	1	6.13				
Extreme/Average	83	38	57	63	-6	3.12	+1.92	1	4.54	80	49	63	0.17
5. Central													
Canton	80	37	55	63	-8	5.03	+3.69	1	7.25				
Carthage	77	38	56	61	-5	4.55 E	+3.15	2	6.18 E				
Lexington				61		4.00	+2.67	1	5.15				
Eupora	80	37	56	60	-4	3.14	+1.81	3	4.75				
Extreme/Average	80	37	56	62	-6	4.24	+2.95	2	6.06				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	76	38	59	60	-1	2.54	+1.28	4	4.44				0.30
Houston	79	31	54	59	-5	3.89	+2.63	2	5.74				
Louisville	79	38	57	60	-3	4.78	+3.38	2	7.63				
State University	80	40	57	60	-3	3.30	+1.97	3	5.67	67	53	60	0.12
Extreme/Average	80	31	57	62	-5	3.63	+2.23	3	5.87	67	53	60	0.19
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	81	35	59	63	-4	1.00	-0.47	2	2.54	78	47	62	
Natchez	79	33	57	64	-7	1.08	-0.38	2	4.75				
Oakley	80	33	57	62	-5	3.04	+1.59	3	4.57	70	53	63	
Vicksburg	81	40	58			8.34		2	10.23				
Extreme/Average	81	33	58	65	-7	3.37	+2.11	2	5.52	78	47	63	
8. South-Central													
Collins	78	39	59	63	-4	1.43	+0.13	3	3.07				
Columbia	81	38	59	64	-5	2.97	+1.57	4	3.90				
Tylertown	82	36	58	64	-6	6.25	+4.92	4	7.53				
Extreme/Average	82	36	58	65	-7	3.55	+2.24	4	4.83				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	86	39	61			3.56		3	5.09				
Hattiesburg	80	38	58	64	-6	3.36	+2.03	4	4.68				
Laurel	81	40	59	62	-3	4.87	+3.67	4	5.50				
Newton	80	39	57	61	-4	6.68	+5.21	3	8.31	71	48	59	0.14
Extreme/Average	86	38	59	64	-5	4.62	+3.36	4	5.90	71	48	59	0.14
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	79	37	59	65	-6	2.88	+1.60	2	5.70				
Gulfport	79	38	62	66	-4	2.65	+1.47	4	4.10				
Pascagoula	78	40	60	64	-4	2.44	+1.40	2	3.71				
Poplarville	82	35	57	64	-7	4.48	+3.22	4	6.20	76	54	63	
Waveland	80	38	61	64	-3	2.66	+1.28	2	5.43				
Extreme/Average	82	35	60	67	-7	3.02	+1.90	3	5.03	76	54	63	
State	86	31	57	63	-6	3.30	+2.04	2	5.22	80	46	61	0.23

DFN = Departure from Normal.